



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Kevin Duffy, Commissioner
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Fish and Wildlife Service
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2003

Radio Report #2. Broadcast over Nome radio stations KNOM, KICY, and KYUK. Beginning June 6, 2003.

This is Tracy Lingnau with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with a fisheries update for Yukon Area salmon fishermen.

The Emmonak Fish and Game office is now open. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Sunday. The Emmonak Fish and Wildlife Service office is also open and has similar hours.

The department anticipates that the recent trend of poor salmon production will continue this year and result in below average salmon runs into the Yukon River. Given the uncertainties associated with the declines in productivity, salmon fisheries will be managed conservatively. It is anticipated that the chinook and summer chum salmon runs will provide for escapements, subsistence harvests, and possibly a small commercial fishery.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, manages subsistence, personal use, commercial, and sport fisheries on all lands and waters throughout Alaska. The Federal Government, through the Federal Subsistence Board, manages for a subsistence priority for federally qualified rural residents on federal lands and waters.

The Pilot Station sonar project is operational as of the afternoon of June 5.

The radio tagging project is operational as of the morning of June 5. On the first day of operation they caught 25 chinook salmon.

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule for both the state and federally managed waters are currently the same and are as follows.

District 1 subsistence salmon fishing schedule consists of two 36-hour periods each week. Subsistence fishing for salmon will be allowed from 8:00 PM Monday until 8:00 AM Wednesday and from 8:00 PM Thursday until 8:00 AM Saturday.

District 2 subsistence salmon fishing schedule consists of two 36-hour periods each week. Subsistence fishing for salmon will be allowed from 8:00 PM Sunday until 8:00 AM Tuesday and from 8:00 PM Wednesday until 8:00 AM Friday.

District 3 subsistence salmon fishing schedule consists of two 36-hour periods each week. Subsistence fishing for salmon will be allowed from 8:00 PM Sunday until 8:00 AM Tuesday and from 8:00 PM Wednesday until 8:00 AM Friday.

Subsistence salmon fishing for the Coastal District is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

All subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and fish wheels must be stopped during subsistence fishing closures.

Unless the commercial fishing season is opened, fishermen will not have to remove the dorsal fin of king salmon taken for subsistence purposes in Districts 1-3. If the commercial fishing season should open, the marking requirement will be reinstated.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for Federal waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing in the Yukon Area. For further information regarding federal regulations please call 1-800-478-1456 or 949-1798.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office at 949-1798. The Emmonak office of Fish and Game will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

___KICY 443-2213

___KNOM 443-5221

___KYUK 543-3131